

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 517**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Oropeza**

February 18, 2003

---

An act to amend Section 923 of the Labor Code, relating to employment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 517, as introduced, Oropeza. Employment: labor.

Existing law provides that it is the public policy of the state that workers are permitted to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to this provision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 923 of the Labor Code is amended to  
2 read:  
3 923. In the interpretation and application of this chapter, the  
4 public policy of this State is declared as follows:  
5 Negotiation of terms and conditions of labor should result from  
6 voluntary agreement between employer and employees.  
7 Governmental authority ~~has permitted and encouraged~~ *permits*  
8 *and encourages* employers to organize in the corporate and other  
9 forms of capital control. In dealing with such employers, the  
10 individual unorganized worker is helpless to exercise actual liberty

1 of contract and to protect his *or her* freedom of labor, and thereby  
2 to obtain acceptable terms and conditions of employment.  
3 Therefore it is necessary that the individual ~~workman~~ *worker* have  
4 full freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of  
5 representatives of his *or her* own choosing, to negotiate the terms  
6 and conditions of his *or her* employment, and that he *or she* shall  
7 be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers  
8 of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives  
9 or in self-organization or in other concerted activities for the  
10 purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection.

